

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 183724

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P 042139Z AUG 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 183724

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PP

SUBJECT: PAPUA NEW GUINEA BACKGROUND NOTES

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TRAVEL NOTES SECTION FOR PNG BACKGROUND NOTES:

BEGIN TEXT:

TRAVEL NOTES

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING - PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAS A TROPICAL MONSOON CLIMATE, THOUGH THE TEMPERATURE VARIES CONSIDERABLY WITH ELEVATION. IN MOST AREAS, LIGHT WEIGHT CLOTHING CAN BE WORN YEAR ROUND, BUT WARMER CLOTHES MAY BE NECESSARY IN THE HIGHLANDS.

CUSTOMS - IN GENERAL, WHEN VISITORS ARRIVE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THEY MUST PRESENT: (1) A PASSPORT VALID FOR 6 MONTHS LONGER THAN INTENDED STAY; (2) A VISITOR VISA; (3) A RETURN OR ONWARD PASSAGE TICKET; AND (4) AN INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. VISITOR VISAS ARE VALID FOR MULTIPLE ENTRIES WITHIN 48 MONTHS OF ISSUE OR UNTIL PASSPORT EXPIRES. STAYS OF 6 MONTHS FOR EACH ENTRY ARE PERMITTED. SMALLPOX IMMUNIZATIONS MAY BE WAIVED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 183724

SOME INSTANCES AND CHOLERA AND YELLOW FEVER INOCULATIONS REQUIRED IN OTHERS. BEFORE DEPARTURE, CHECK CURRENT REGULATIONS WITH AIRLINE TICKET OFFICES OR THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

NO RESTRICTIONS ARE PLACED ON BRINGING US DOLLARS INTO OR OUT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA. LETTERS OF CREDIT, TRAVELERS CHECKS, US CURRENCY, AND PERSONAL CHECKS DRAWN ON US BANKS ARE FREELY NEGOTIABLE. PAPUA NEW GUINEA USES A DECIMAL SYSTEM OF CURRENCY OF KINA AND TOEA. PERSONAL PROPERTY OF TOURISTS IS GENERALLY EXEMPT FROM CUSTOMS DUTY. DOMESTIC PETS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED ENTRY.

HEALTH - HEALTH CONDITIONS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE, AND THE COUNTRY DOES NOT SUFFER FROM WIDESPREAD, SERIOUS ENDEMIC DISEASES. HOSPITALS AND PHARMACIES ARE SMALL AND ARE LIMITED TO URBAN CENTERS AND MISSIONS.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS - INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, TELEX, AND POSTAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE.

TRANSPORTATION - PORT MORESBY IS SERVICED DAILY BY FLIGHTS TO AND FROM BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA. LESS FREQUENT FLIGHTS CONNECT PORT MORESBY WITH MANILA AND SOME OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. THERE IS NO DIRECT PASSENGER SHIP LINE BETWEEN US PORTS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA. AIR NIUGINI PROVIDES INTERNAL AIR SERVICE. THERE IS LIMITED BUS SERVICE BETWEEN A FEW TOWNS, AND NO RAIL SERVICE. ROAD MILEAGE IS STILL SHORT FOR THE SIZE OF THE COUNTRY, AND THERE IS NO ROAD ACROSS PAPUA NEW GUINEA. TAXIS AND RENT-A-CAR SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE IN MAJOR TOWNS.

END TEXT.

2. PLEASE GIVE US ANY CORRECTIONS OR REVISIONS WITHIN 24 HOURS TO ALLOW EXPEDITIOUS PRINTING OF COMPLETE NOTES. INGERSOLL

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